CLAIMS

1. A guar-free fluid for use in oil production, comprising a deacetylated xanthan gum in the form of a polypentamer, combined with at least one compound which increases the ionic strength of the medium.

2. A fluid according to the preceding claim, characterized in that it comprises 0.01% to 2% of deacetylated xanthan gum.

3. A fluid according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the compound increasing the ionic strength of the medium is selected from salts of mineral or organic acids such as alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal halides, sulphates, carbonates, bicarbonates, silicates, or phosphates, or alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal formates, or alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal acetates, used alone or as a mixture.

4. A fluid according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the compound increasing the ionic strength of the medium is selected from halides, more particularly from alkali or alkaline-earth metal chlorides.

5. A fluid according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the compound increasing the ionic strength of the medium is selected from silicates, preferably sodium silicates.

6. A fluid according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the amount of compound increasing the ionic strength of the medium is in the range 5000 to 110000 parts per million.

7. A fluid according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the xanthan gum contains less than 3% of acetyl groups, preferably in the range 0 to 2%.

8. A fluid according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a fluid loss control agent in a quantity in the range 0 to 1% with respect to the total fluid weight.

9. A fluid according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the fluid loss control agent is selected from cellulose compounds, polyacrylamides, high molecular weight polyacrylates, succinoglycanes, native starch or its derivatives, and charcoal used alone or in combination.

10. A fluid according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a thinner or dispersing agent in a quantity in the range 0 to 1% with respect to the total fluid weight.

11. A fluid according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the thinner or dispersing agent is selected from polyphosphates, tannins, lignosulphonates, lignin derivatives, peats, lignites, polyacrylates and polynaphthalene sulphonates, used alone or in combination.

12. A fluid according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises an oxygen scavenger in an amount in the range 0 to 0.25% with respect to the total fluid weight.

13. A fluid according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a weighting compound selected from alkaline-earth metal sulphates, carbonates and silicates, alkaline-earth metal or zinc bromides or iron oxides is used.

14. A fluid according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises at least one mineral colloid selected from attapulgite, barite and bentonite, used alone or as a mixture.

15. A fluid according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises water.

16. Use of deacetylated xanthan gum in the form of a polypentamer in combination with at least one compound increasing the ionic strength of the medium, as a fluid loss control agent in oil drilling fluids.

17. Use according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the compound increasing the ionic strength of the medium is selected from alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal halides, sulphates, carbonates, bicarbonates, silicates, phosphates and formates, used alone or as a mixture.

18. Use according to claim 16 or claim 17, characterized in that the compound increasing the ionic strength of the medium is selected from alkali or alkaline-earth metal halides used alone or in combination.

19. Use according to any one of claims 16 to 18, characterized in that the deacetylated xanthan gum further comprises a fluid loss control agent.

20. Use according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the fluid loss control agent is selected from cellulose compounds, polyacrylamides, high molecular weight polyacrylates, succinoglycanes, native starch or its derivatives, and charcoal.

21. A fluid loss control agent for an oil drilling fluid, characterized in that it comprises a combination of deacetylated xanthan gum in the form of a polypentamer, at least one compound increasing the ionic strength of the medium and at least one fluid loss control agent.